

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:379  
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003  
DEVELOPMENT OF BARREN WASTELAND  
PARSURAM MAJHI;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total area of barren and wasteland which falls both in the forest and non forest land in the country at present. State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have any schemes for the development of such lands;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to develop such lands along with allocation and utilization of funds during the last five years and till date for the purpose?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ANANTH KUMAR) :

(a) to (d) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000 (brought out by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad employing Satellite Remote Sensing Technologies), the total extent of wastelands/degraded lands both in the forest and non-forest areas in the country is 63.85 million hectare, out of which the extent of barren rocky/stony waste/sheet rock area is 6.45 million hectare. The State-wise details are placed in the enclosed statement.

While no specific programme is currently under implementation for the development of barren lands, the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three major programmes viz. the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) for the development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis which have components to treat/ reclaim such barren lands by checking land degradation and putting such lands to productive use. New projects under these programmes will now be implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions. During the last five years, (1998-99 to 2002-03) an amount of Rs. 2194.13 crores was allocated for these programmes out of which an amount of Rs. 2102.59 crores was released.